

Carmen Bautista  
Norwalk, CT

Testimony in Support of HB 6616: An Act Concerning the Expansion of Husky's Health Benefits for Those Not Eligible Due to Immigration Status.

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Dear Senator Lesser, Representative Gilchrest and members of the Human Services Committee. My name is Carmen Bautista, I am married, have 1 child and live in Norwalk. I strongly support HB 6616 to expand access to the HUSKY program to undocumented individuals in CT who have access up to age 26.

I am part of Comunidades sin Fronteras which has 300 members in the state. Our I am also a member of Recovery For All - a statewide coalition fighting for a better future for CT with over 60 community, faith-based and labor organizations. I work cleaning houses, I'm a Domestic Worker. I started having dizziness and a lot of health ailments. I went to the doctor, but at the community clinic, appointments take 3 months, I waited anxiously for my appointment. When I arrived they sent me for blood tests and I had to come back after 15 days to know the results, but they gave me the appointment 2 months later.

The days were long, I felt desperation and I became insomniac and anxious. Finally the day came to go to the doctor. The results were not favorable for my health. I was diagnosed with severe anemia and have now been taking medicine for a long time. If I had health insurance, maybe I wouldn't have spent so much time suffering and I wouldn't have ended up with severe anemia and gone months without being able to work. As immigrants we suffer a lot when we get sick. We believe that having health insurance is a right, not a privilege. I am hopeful that you will pass this bill. Hopefully, out of humanity, we will get it.

I support HB 6616 and hope the committee will vote in favor of us undocumented immigrants – HUSKY FOR ALL.

Thank you for listening to the immigrant community.

Carmen Bautista  
Norwalk, CT